

1. (Amended Twice) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for configuring a first computer so that a first telephony client on the first computer may securely communicate with a second telephony client on a second computer via a communication path, the computer readable medium comprising:

computer code for inserting a security algorithm within the communication path, the security algorithm facilitating secure communication between the first and second telephony clients such that each telephony client employs concurrently a different formatting algorithm.

8. (Amended Twice) A method of configuring a first computer so that a first telephony client on the first computer may securely communicate with a second telephony client on a second computer via a communication path, the method comprising inserting a security algorithm within the communication path, the security algorithm facilitating secure communication between the first and second telephony clients such that each telephony client employs concurrently a different formatting algorithm.

11. (Amended Twice) An operating system for use by a processor in directing operation of a computer upon which a first telephony client may execute to communicate with a second telephony client on a second computer via a communication path, the operating system comprising:

at least one processor-readable medium; and

a program mechanism embedded in the at least one processor-readable medium for causing the processor to facilitate secure communication between the first and second telephony clients such that each telephony client employs concurrently a different formatting algorithm.

13. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for a first telephony client having an associated formatting module to communicate securely with a second telephony client, the computer readable medium comprising:

computer code for receiving audio signals from an audio input device;

computer code for encrypting the received audio signals independently of the formatting module associated with the first telephony client, wherein the formatting module is different for different types of telephony clients and the encrypting is independent of telephony client type; and

computer code for outputting the encrypted audio signals for transmission to the second telephony client.

16. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the first telephony client has a different type than the second telephony client.

17. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for a first telephony client having an associated formatting module to communicate securely with a second telephony client, the computer readable medium comprising:

- computer code for receiving audio signals from an audio input device;

- computer code for encrypting the received audio signals independently of the formatting module associated with the first telephony client, wherein the formatting module is implemented in a sound card driver that is configured to interface with a sound card that receives and outputs audio signals; and

- computer code for outputting the encrypted audio signals for transmission to the second telephony client.

18. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for a first telephony client having an associated formatting module to communicate securely with a second telephony client, the computer readable medium comprising:

- computer code for receiving audio signals from an audio input device;

- computer code for encrypting the received audio signals independently of the formatting module associated with the first telephony client, wherein encrypting is also performed independently from a communication stack implemented by the first telephony client; and

- computer code for outputting the encrypted audio signals for transmission to the second telephony client.

19. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for a first telephony client having an associated formatting module to communicate securely with a second telephony client, the computer readable medium comprising:

- computer code for receiving audio signals from an audio input device;

- computer code for encrypting the received audio signals independently of the formatting module associated with the first telephony client, wherein encrypting is performed independently from the first telephony client; and

- computer code for outputting the encrypted audio signals for transmission to the second telephony client.

20. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for a first telephony client having an associated formatting module to communicate securely with a second telephony client, the computer readable medium comprising:

computer code for receiving audio signals from an audio input device;

computer code for encrypting the received audio signals independently of the formatting module associated with the first telephony client, wherein the encrypting implements an algorithm selected from a group consisting of an IDEA encryption algorithm, a DES encryption algorithm, a GOST algorithm, an RC5 algorithm, and a SEAL algorithm; and

computer code for outputting the encrypted audio signals for transmission to the second telephony client.